



# ANNUAL REPORT

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1 July 1993 - 30 June 1994

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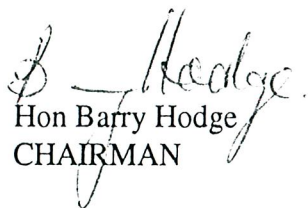
ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO BE ADDRESSED TO  
The Secretary, Lands and Forest Commission, Department of Conservation and Land Management, PO Box 104, Como 6152, Western Australia.

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HON MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

In accordance with Section 31(1) of the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984, I submit for your information and presentation to Parliament the Annual Report of the Lands and Forest Commission for the year ending 30 June 1994.

  
Hon Barry Hodge  
CHAIRMAN

20 July 1994

## **CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW**

In February 1992, the Commission released for public comment draft Management Strategies for the South-West Forests of Western Australia. Following a number of public seminars and workshops and six months of public comment over 1,800 public submissions were received and taken into account in preparation of the final 'Forest Management Plan 1994-2003' which was approved by the Minister for the Environment and published in April 1994. Finalisation of the plan was delayed by a Supreme Court action, which sought to have the Plan set aside because of an alleged flaw in the statutory process. The action was dismissed, but is subject to an appeal.

I have mentioned in a number of previous annual reports that the Commission would benefit from having its own annual budget and a small staff allocated to it. At present the Commission is totally reliant upon the goodwill and co-operation of CALM for the provision of basic services. I believe that it would enhance public confidence in the independence of the Commission if it were seen to be less reliant on the Department.

The Commission would like to record its appreciation to the Department of CALM for the continued provision of resources, staff and office facilities.

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMISSION**

The Lands and Forest Commission was established under Section 18 of the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984.

## **FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION**

Functions of the Commission are determined by Section 19 of the Conservation and Land Management Act, 1984. The functions of the Commission are;

- a) to have vested in it State forest and timber reserves and relevant land referred to in Section 5(g);
- b) to develop policies or promote the objectives described in Section 56(1)(a), b and (e);
- c) to consider, in accordance with Section 17, any cancellation, change of purpose or boundary alteration in respect of land vested in it;
- d) to submit proposed management plans to the Minister as provided in Part V in respect of land vested in it;
- e) to monitor the carrying out of management plans by the Department in respect of land vested in the Commission;

- f) to inquire into and to advise on any matter on which the advice of the Commission is sought by the Minister;
- g) to provide advice, upon request, on matters relating to land vested in it to any body or person, if the provision of advice is in the public interest and it is practicable for the Commission to provide it; and
- h) with the approval of the Minister, to cause study or research to be undertaken for the purposes of paragraph (b).

### **MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION**

Membership of the Commission is determined by Section 20 of the Conservation and Land Management Act and comprises;

- a) two persons appointed by the Governor on the nomination of the Minister; and
- b) the Executive Director of the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

The Governor approved the reappointment of the Hon B J Hodge (Chairman), Mr R A Perry (member) and Dr S R Shea (ex-officio member) to the Lands and Forest Commission on 12 November 1991 for a three year term commencing 4 September 1991.

Associate Professor J McComb continues as a deputy member of the Commission. Dr FH McKinnell and Mr DJ Keene are deputies for the Executive Director.

### **MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION**

During the report year the Commission met on eight occasions. In addition the members of the Commission attended part of meeting No. 107 of the NPNCA on 13 May 1994. Meetings were conducted at the Corporate Executive Office, Department of Conservation and Land Management at Crawley.

Meetings were held on 7 October, 26 October, 16 December 1993; and 17 January, 11 February, 16 February, 25 February and 13 May 1994.

### **BUSINESS OF THE COMMISSION**

#### **Management Plans**

The Commission was briefed on numerous occasions on the latest developments with respect to the writs and affidavits lodged in the Supreme Court by South West Forests Defence Foundation (Inc) and others, seeking to prevent completion of the draft Forest Strategy Plan.

This draft plan was approved for a second period of public review, as from 22 October 1993. A total of 160 substantive and 1,720 proforma submissions were received. Following amendments in response to the public comments, the final Forest Management Plan 1994-2003 was approved for submission to the Minister.

The draft management plan for Dryandra State forest was approved for release for public comment.

The final Goldfields Region Management Plan was approved for submission to the Minister, following a four month period for public comment.

### **Amendments to State forest and timber reserves**

Under Section 19(1)(a) and (c) of the Conservation and Land Management Act, the Commission is the vesting body for State forest and timber reserves and considers any cancellation, addition or changes of purpose or boundary for its estate.

The area of State forest, as at 30 June 1994, was 1,748,883 hectares, an increase of 558 hectares during the year.

The area of timber reserves, as at 30 June 1994 was 141,487 hectares, a decrease of 409 hectares during the year.

As the vesting body for State forest and timber reserves, the Commission approved the following proposals put to it during the year.

- Excision of 10 hectares of State forest No. 22 near Roleystone, for land exchange with the City of Armadale; for 23 hectares of superfluous road reserves.
- Excision of 90 hectares of State forest No. 4 near Collie, under a Land Use Compensation Agreement with SECWA. In exchange, SECWA provided over 900 hectares of land in the Wellington Catchment.
- Excision of 3 hectares of Timber reserve 97/25 and 58 hectares of State forest near Manjimup, in exchange for a smaller area nearby, of equivalent value.
- Cancellation of 18 hectares of Timber reserve 97/25 near Manjimup, a disused tramway.
- Excision of 22 hectares of State forest No. 54 near Mundaring, in exchange for 40 hectares of land nearby, provided by SECWA.
- Approved a Main Roads WA request for excision of State forest and Timber reserve needed for realignment of Vasse Highway, south of Nannup.
- Excision of 14 hectares of State forest No. 7, east of Sawyers Valley for a Main Roads WA road realignment.
- Excision of about 200 hectares from State forest 65 at Gngara for the Ellenbrook development, in exchange for a compensation package, comprising land of similar extent nearby and a cash settlement.
- Excision of 7 hectares of State forest No. 60 at Hamel nursery, intended to be vested in the Executive Director.

## **Mining tenements**

The Chairman advised the Minister for the Environment that the Commission opposed giving up the power of concurrence, with respect to decisions on Mining Act tenements, within State forest, outside the southwest of the State; as requested by the Minister for Mines. The Minister advised later that he had agreed to the Minister for Mines' suggestion.

CALM's Environmental Protection Branch continued to refer mining tenement proposals to the Commission, including the following;

- A mining lease application (for gravel) for an area near Pickering Brook.
- Applications for prospecting licences near Yanchep.
- A supplementary Notice of Intent for Cockeyed Bob Pit, east of Kalgoorlie.
- Numerous 'routine' applications summarised by CALM Environmental Protection Branch and not considered by the Commission in detail, in accordance with the agreement reached with CALM at meeting number 33 on 15 August 1991.

## **State forest purpose maps**

As a component of the August 1991 amendments to the CALM Act, a transitional clause 60A was included which required the Minister to gazette the purposes of State forests. After discussions with the Ministry of Justice it was decided to prepare a map for each State forest showing purposes. The required maps have been prepared and signed by the Chairman of the Lands and Forests Commission and the Executive Director of CALM.

## **Other Matters**

The Commission provided comments and/or endorsed CALM Policy Statements concerning radio communications facilities and commercial flora harvesting.

The Commission was briefed on the aims of Panel of Review of CALM's fire management policy and practices and CALM's submission to it. The Commission advised the Chairman of the review panel of its agreement with all of CALM's submission, except for the proposals seeking to exempt CALM's prescribed burning from the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act.